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Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Financial situation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women*

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The General Assembly, in its resolution 57/311 of 18 June 2003, requested the Secretary-General to report further at its fifty-eighth session on the financial situation of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW).

The level of expenditures realized for the period from 1 January to 30 September 2003 is lower than expected. As a result of the lower level of expenditures and the additional grant of $250,000 from the United Nations regular budget approved by the General Assembly in the same resolution, it is possible to project the unencumbered balance of the INSTRAW Trust Fund as at 31 December 2003 at approximately $450,000. Those resources would allow continuation of operations of the Institute to the end of May 2004, albeit at a suboptimal level. It is proposed that the Assembly take note of the present report.

* The delayed submission of the present report is due to the minimal time available for financial situation development.

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I. Introduction

1. In paragraphs 5 and 8 of its resolution 57/311 of 18 June 2003 on the financial situation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the General Assembly:

(a) Approved the release of the amount of $250,000 that was set aside in the contingency fund for the biennium 2002-2003, in conformity with the provisions of General Assembly decision 57/580, as an additional provision for the continuation of the core activities of the Institute in 2003, and decided to appropriate the amount of $250,000 for that purpose;

(b) Requested the Secretary-General to report further to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the financial situation of the Institute.

2. The present report is submitted in compliance with paragraph 8 of that resolution.

II. Current administrative and financial arrangements and the financial situation of the Institute

3. In accordance with General Assembly decision 57/580, paragraph (b), $250,000 was transferred to the INSTRAW Trust Fund in January 2003, with the result that the balance of the Trust Fund at the beginning of the year amounted to $687,780. As indicated in the previous related report of the Secretary-General (A/57/797), during the first four months of 2003, the total income of the Trust Fund amounted to $138,919, including $127,925 in government contributions and $10,994 in miscellaneous income from other sources, including interest income.

4. At the time of preparation of that report, in April 2003, it was estimated that the available resources would be sufficient for financing INSTRAW operations, including the salaries of eight staff (1 D-2, 1 P-3, 2 P-2 or P-1 and 4 General Service) and related operating expenses until the end of November 2003, provided that the Director was appointed as from 1 May. It was also estimated that an additional amount of $100,000 would be needed to maintain the Institute to 31 December.

5. During the United Nations pledging conference for development activities held in New York on 5 November 2002, an amount of $11,136 was pledged to the INSTRAW Trust Fund for 2003. None of those contributions had been received as at 30 September 2003, while additional pledges of $20,079 were recorded on 29 September 2003. As at 30 September, total unpaid pledges to the INSTRAW Trust Fund amounted to $76,074.

6. Following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 57/311, an amount of $250,000 was transferred to the INSTRAW Trust Fund. For the period covered in the present report (17 April-30 September), additional income received in the Trust Fund amounted to $10,421, including government contributions of $2,999 and miscellaneous income of $7,452. Table 1 provides information on the income received and pledges unpaid in 2003.

Table 1
Income and pledges to the Trust Fund of the Institute in 2003
(United States dollars)

	January-April	*May-September*	*Total*
Government contributions	127 925	2 999	130 924
Miscellaneous income	10 994	7 452	18 446
Total income received	**138 919**	**10 451**	**149 370**
Pledges unpaid as at 30 September 2003	11 136	20 079	31 215

7. Mainly because the Director of the Institute had not yet been appointed and the resulting low level of activity, expenditures for the period from 1 January to 30 September 2003 were below previous estimates and amounted to $360,253, as shown in table 2.

Table 2
Expenditures of the Institute for the period from January to September 2003
(United States dollars)

	January-April	*May-September*	*Total*
Staff and other personnel costs	115 634	114 076	229 710
Consultants and experts	15 989	54 916	70 905
Travel	4 328	574	4 902
Contractual services	11 316	-	11 316
Operating expenses	9 363	10 098	19 461
Acquisitions	1 759	3 286	5 045
Other expenses	14 551	4 363	18 914
Total	**172 940**	**187 313**	**360 253**

8. The INSTRAW Trust Fund balance as at 30 September 2003 is estimated at $726,898. Assuming that the Director of the Institute is appointed in October 2003, it is further estimated that the INSTRAW Trust Fund balance as at 31 December will amount to approximately $450,000, as shown in table 3.

Table 3
Financial situation of the Institute in 2003
(United States dollars)

Beginning balance	687 781
Income received	
Government contributions	130 924
Miscellaneous income	18 446
Subtotal	**837 151**
General Assembly grant[a]	250 000
Total income	**1 087 151**
Cost of operations (January-September)	(360 253)
Fund balance as at 30 September	726 898
Projected cost of operations (October-December)	(273 347)
Projected surplus (deficit) as at 31 December	453 551
Projected closing balance	**453 551**

[a] See resolution 57/311.

9. The amount of $453,551 is sufficient for the financing of INSTRAW operations, including eight staff and operating expenses, until the end of May 2004. As before, the level of staff salaries has been estimated on the basis of full incumbency of the existing eight posts and of the operating expenses on the basis of average monthly expenses in 2001 and 2002, when a Director had been on board. If the pattern of minimal activities and expenses of the first nine months of 2003 were to continue, the operations could be extended until the end of June. It should be noted, however, that operation of the Institute at a suboptimal level is inherently wasteful, and a significantly greater provision would be required to ensure that an effective operation is maintained.

III. Conclusion

10. **The General Assembly may wish to take note of the present report.**